PART I—Section 2.

NOTIFICATIONS.

GENERAL.

No. G. 9489—P.P. 82-20-4, dated 15th November 1920.

In continuation of Government Notification No. G. 8819—P.P. 82-20-2, dated 30th October 1920, the following Notification No. 6636, dated the 2nd October 1920, and Press Communique dated 20th September 1920 issued by the Government of India in the Department of Commerce are hereby republished for general information.

Notification.

In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause 1 ofthe Order of the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council dated the 13th August 1920, the Governor-General in Council, with the approval of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India in Council, is pleased to appoint Sir William Stevenson, Meyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., as High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom with effect from the 1st October 1920.

Press Communique.

1. Section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1919, provides for the creation, by Order in Council, of a High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom.

2. This section was inserted on the recommendation of Lord Crew's Committee on the Home Administration of Indian affairs. Lord Crew's Committee proposed and the proposal was endorsed by the Joint Committee of both Houses which was appointed to consider the Bill which subsequently passed into law as the Government of India Act, 1919, that the Government of India should have a special representative of high status in London who would eventually take over all work hitherto done by the India Office for the Indian Government which is of an agency, as opposed to a political and administrative character, *i.e.*, in which the India Office ordinarily carry out the wishes of the Indian Government without question.

3. The further developments of the functions and powers of the High Commissioner and his gradual approximation to the position of a High Commissioner to the self-governing Dominions, will naturally depend upon the changes which may ensue in the relations of the Government of India to the Secretary of State and Parliament.

4. It has now been decided by the Government of India and His Majesty's Government that the time has come for making a beginning in the direction described above, by the appointment of a High Commissioner and that appointment has been created and its general functions and status defined by an order in Council, approved by His Imperial Majesty the King.

5. The High Commissioner, who will be subordinate to the Government of India will at the outset, take up the control of the large Stores Department of the India Office and the accounts section, connected therewith and the Indian Students Branch. He will also supervise the work of the Indian Trade Commissioner already located in the City. When these arrangements are in satisfactory working order, the Secretary of State for India, will, in conjunction with the Government of India, decide what further work of an agency character, for instance such matters as the payment of leave and pension allowances can be transferred from the India Office to the High Commissioner and from what date.

6. The Order in Council prescribes that the appointment of the High Commissionership shall be made by the Governor-General of India in Council, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India in Council, and the Government of India have nominated as the first holder of the appointment Sir William Meyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., formerly a member of the Governor-General's Executive Council. This nomination has been approved by the Secretary of State for India. A Secretary will be attached to the High Commissioner and the first holder of the appointment will be an Indian gentleman namely; Mr. J. W. Bhore, C.B.E., I.C.S. At the outset, the officers and clerks will be mainly those hitherto employed in the India Office on the work now to be taken over but, as the time goes on, the High Commissioner will fill up vacancies and provide for new posts which expansion of work may involve by independent recruitment under orders of the Government of India.

7. The High Commissioner will enter on his duties on the 1st October. He will have a separate office building which will probably be located at 42, Grosvenor Gardens. If this is not ready for his occupation by the date above mentioned, he will sit in the India Office, until it is.

By Order,
C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Chief Secretary to Government.